



baywire

News and Updates from the Governing Board of the
Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission

Issue 16
October 2009

State of the Bay Report and Conference Coming Soon

The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission will host its State of the Bay Conference on January 13, 2010 at Loyola-Marymount University. The conference will highlight the successes and challenges that we still face regarding water quality, habitat protection, and other environmental issues.

The conference will revolve around the Commission's State of the Bay Report, scheduled to be completed by the end of 2009. At the Commission's October Governing Board meeting, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) chair Rich Ambrose, TAC member Mas Dojiri, and Commission staff Lia Protopapadakis presented the Report's main topics and findings.

The Report will more closely parallel the goals and objectives of the Bay Restoration Plan than previous editions. The TAC has been more involved in developing this latest report, recommending inclusion of a new "Habitat Conditions" section which will be the first time a comprehensive assessment of the Bay's main habitats has been conducted using a standardized scale. Sections focusing on more current issues in the areas of water quality and natural resources will be featured.

The TAC members and staff noted that despite the remarkable achievements we've had, there are still many challenges ahead, including new, emerging issues such as the impacts of climate change. On the bright side, we have been learning to work across issues and jurisdictions for better management. Integrated water resources and ecosystem-based management approaches are great examples. As a result we are better positioned to meet these emerging challenges than ever before,

Be sure to "Save the Date" of January 13 and attend the Commission's State of the Bay Conference. For more information, go to our website at www.santamonicabay.org and click on the "State of the Bay" button.

MEETING UPDATE

- State of the Bay Conference
- Coastal Cleanup Day
- Oxford Retention Basin Rehab in Marina del Rey
- Governing Board Elections

SAVE the DATE

2009 Governing Board meetings will be held on:

Dec 17



This electronic newsletter is a publication of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission. If this newsletter was forwarded to you and you would like to subscribe, please join our mailing list at santamonicabay.org.



Bay Restoration Commission Rocks Coastal Cleanup Day in Marina del Rey

September's Coastal Cleanup Day was the most successful yet for the Bay Restoration Commission. Grace Lee, Commission staff key to organizing the event, reported to the Governing Board that the Commission had over 120 volunteers who cleaned up nearly 300 pounds of assorted trash and detritus from the MDR harbor, including a Spiderman big wheel and a Cazadores flask. Much of the success can be credited to the generous support by our sponsors including Venice Boys and Girls Club, UCLA Aquatic Center, Del Rey Boat Rentals, and Neal Anderberg Kayak Company.

The popular cleanup vehicle of choice for Commission volunteers was the kayak. Kayakers were able to get to areas that a person on land could not reach, grabbing floating garbage and items stuck to rocks and seawalls throughout the harbor.

Ms. Lee noted that the use of kayaks has become more and more popular. She suggested that for those who want to participate in the September 2010 cleanup, they should reserve the kayaks in advance. Look for more information on next year's Coastal Cleanup Day in future editions of Baywire or on our website.

Oxford Retention Basin Rehab in Marina del Rey

Greg Jaquez of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District presented the District's proposal to rehabilitate and redesign the Oxford Retention Basin in Marina del Rey. Oxford Retention Basin is operated by the Flood Control District as a flood protection facility serving the northerly portion of Marina del Rey and the adjacent Venice neighborhood in the City of Los Angeles.

The basin is connected by tidal culverts to Basin E in the Marina. The project's objectives are to improve flood protection, water quality, habitat, aesthetics, and recreational opportunities. Major features of the project include a new relief storm drain and pump station upgrade, constructed wetlands, native coastal upland landscape, observation/bird watching stations, and a walking path along the basin perimeter. The project is nearing completion of conceptual planning and is anticipated to be constructed by early 2013.

Governing Board Elections to be held at December Meeting

The December 17th meeting of the Bay Restoration Commission will open with the Bay Watershed Council's selection of nine of its members to the Governing Board. Of the 35 positions on the Governing Board (20 voting, 15 non-voting), nine positions come from the 70+ member Bay Watershed Council. All nine serve as voting members. Those members will then assume their roles on the Governing Board at its first meeting of 2010, tentatively scheduled for February 18. Members serve two-year terms.

For more information, contact Scott Valor at 310-922-2376 or svalor@santamonicabay.org or visit our website at www.santamonicabay.org.

